

THE EAST BAY AMATEUR RADIO CLUB, INC.

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THE BLOWN FUSE

CLUB STATION W6CUS

VOLUME LXVI NUMBER 3

MARCH 2018

EBARC Meetings

March 9, 2018, 7:30 p.m.
Digital Modes Workshop #1
FT8 Weak-Signal Mode



The East Bay Amateur Radio Club meets this month at a place to be announced, due to fire at the El Sobrante Library

The Executive Board meets monthly before each general meeting. For the date, time, & location, contact President Jay Sparks, KJ6HSH, at 384-4233.

POSTMASTER:
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THE EAST BAY AMATEUR RADIO CLUB, INC.
Post Office Box 1393
El Cerrito, CA 94530

The Blown Fuse is published monthly by the East Bay Amateur Radio Club, Inc. and is free to its members. *The Blown Fuse* welcomes articles of interest to its members and amateur radio in general. *The Blown Fuse* reserves the right to edit or reject any material submitted. Material submitted becomes the property of *The Blown Fuse*. Permission is hereby granted to reproduce material printed herein provided proper acknowledgment is given. Editor: Sharon Primbsch, AA6XZ

Deadline for Apr. issue: Tue., Mar. 27th

[Articles may be submitted by "snail" mail, by dictation over the 'phone 510-741-8227, or by e-mail to aa6xz@earthlink.net]

Fire at El Sobrante Library! March Meeting Moves!

On February 27th there was a fire at the El Sobrante Library which affected its roof. Our March EBARC meeting will move to another venue. We'll send an email "blast" with any news (or you may contact an EBARC officer).

March 9th EBARC Meeting Peter Hoffman, W6DEI

The March meeting will feature another workshop format, this time focusing on digital modes, especially the new FT8.

FT8 is the latest weak signal digital mode developed by Nobel Laureate, Joe Taylor, K1JT, and Steve Franke, K9AN. Since its release in 2017 it has taken off like wildfire, and the bands seem to be filled with FT8 signals at all times of the day and night. According to a recent ARRL bulletin, no other mode has ever been adopted so quickly and enthusiastically. FT8 couldn't have debuted at a better time, as weak signal modes are ideal

for the bottom of a solar cycle when it's so much more difficult to make a contact with SSB or even CW.

The workshop will provide a brief, high level overview of digital modes such as PSK, RTTY, MFSK, and Olivia, as well as weak signal modes like JT65. Then we'll zero in specifically on FT8. Bring your laptop and we'll provide the WSJT-X software you'll need to run FT8 from your home station. The software is available for Windows, Mac, and Linux operating systems. We'll give a general overview of how to set up your home station, including information on the hardware required for interfacing the computer and transceiver. Finally, we hope to do a live, on-the-air demo and make some contacts with FT8 on the 40 meter band.

So come see what all the hoopla is about with FT8, and don't forget to bring your laptop if you'd like help installing and configuring the WSJT-X software.

Technician License Class Ken Fowler, KO6NO

EBARC is offering a class to prepare applicants for the Technician Class Amateur Radio License. The class starts April 6, 2018 and ends June 8. The class will meet each Friday from 6:30 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. at El Sobrante United Methodist Church, on Argyle Rd. off Appian Way in El Sobrante. The textbook is the *ARRL Ham Radio License Manual Revised 3rd Edition*. Books will be available for purchase at the class.

FCC examinations and license applications will be administered at the final class session by the EBARC Volunteer Examiners, for a fee of \$15.

To register, contact Ken Fowler at 510-222-0830 or email: ko6no@comcast.net by April 5, 2018.

Treasurer's Report **January 2018** **Randy Jenkins, KA6BQF, Treasurer**

JANUARY GENERAL FUND¹

Beginning Balance\$6,520.03

Income:

New Member: N6PLM.....\$30.00

Individual Renewals: KK6UPI, KD6MZC,
KW6R, WA6UDS, KK6UQX, WI6O,
K5EJL,AG6FU, W6WTJ, W6MRR,
KJ6DZB330.00

Family Renewals: KI6KOV/KI6KOU, KB6LHP/
W6AKB/KG6LXL/KI6ELP..... 70.00

Refreshment Kitty27.71

Total General Income:\$457.71

Disbursements

Liability Insurance\$300.00

Refreshments..... 20.04

Equipment Insurance 161.91

Supplies3.14

Total General Disbursements\$485.09

Ending Balance.....\$6,492.65
(portion as petty cash\$40.00)

¹\$100 earmarked for youth scholarships.

JANUARY STATION FUND

Beginning Balance:\$1,585.69

Total Station Income0.00

Total Station Expenditures0.00

Ending Balance.....\$1,585.69

The Valley of the Moon Amateur Radio Club (VOMARC) invites you to its annual HAMFEST on April 28th. The location is the Vets building in Sonoma. The event features a swap meet, delicious breakfast, VE session, demonstration stations, prizes, and much more. Please visit [Vomarc.org](http://vomarc.org) <<http://vomarc.org>> for more info and a flyer download.

Jim, K6UUW, VOMARC President

Treasurer's Report **February 2018** **Randy Jenkins, KA6BQF, Treasurer**

FEBRUARY GENERAL FUND¹

Beginning Balance\$6,492.65

Income:

Individual Renewals: N6JGC, KJ6WEQ,
N6SPP, KD6SWU.....\$120.00

Family Renewals: KK6ZPM/KJ6WSS .35.00

Refreshment Kitty.....22.00

Total General Income:.....\$177.00

Disbursements

Post Office Box Rental\$136.00

Refreshments.....23.30

Total General Disbursements.....\$159.30

Ending Balance\$6,510.35
(portion as petty cash..... \$40.00)

¹\$100 earmarked for youth scholarships.

FEBRUARY STATION FUND

Beginning Balance:\$1,585.69

Total Station Income0.00

Total Station Expenditures0.00

Ending Balance\$1,585.69

Preafrooding this month's *Blown Fuse* was done by Ye Olde Editor. Mistrakes are mine!!

General Meeting Minutes **Robin Spalding, N6RLS, Secretary**

Opening: President Jay Sparks opened the February 9th general meeting at 7:32 p.m. There were introductions from members present. Jay announced that EBARC will be doing Field Day this year (23-24 June), and he wants a banner to display at our FD site. VP Peter Hoffman elaborated on the FD concept and our version at Cesar Chavez Park. Ken said he wants to have a FD SSB tent captain to put together a crew and set up an operator's

schedule. There was a general discussion on FD operating techniques.

Program: VP Peter Hoffman said the planned presenter from NASA for tonight was not available. A free-for-all general discussion will happen instead.

Hospitality: A fine spread was provided by VP Ken. Members were encouraged to “feed the kitty.”

Membership: VP Sharon noted that dues should be in by 28 Feb to insure inclusion on the EBARC roster (which will be mailed circa 1 March). She is also seeking articles for *The Blown Fuse*. She reports that 24 candidates showed up for the January quarterly VE session and that there were 65 for the U.C. Berkeley mega-session a few days later. The next quarterly VE session is on 22 April.

Finance: VP Randy said he will be paying the EBARC post office box fee this month.

Public Events/Education: VP Ken said he wants to start his Technician license classes, probably starting on 16 March; nine sessions, to end on 8 May (no venue yet). He’s also planning G.O.T.A. and elmering sessions. He wants help from the membership for administration of student registration, promotion, scheduling, and other things prior to the start of these classes and for future classes. Members noted possibilities for affiliating with various schools and organizations to handle these aspects. Jay said that anyone interested in helping should send him an email, to help lighten Ken’s load.

Announcements: Martin noted a U.C. Berkeley balloon flight coming up on 3 March,

with a muon detector on board. VP Sharon related her prior experience plotting balloon flights with graph paper and a Marchant calculator. Minutes from the January General meeting were approved by the members present. Stanton asked about interest in the presentation videos he’s been recording. Various ideas were suggested by members.

Next Meeting: the next meeting will be at 7:30 p.m. on March 9, 2018.

Closing: There being no further business, the membership meeting adjourned at 9:13 p.m.

Presentation: None tonight. VP Peter says various ideas for next month include information on low power digital modes. Members suggested a “Digital Modes 101” offering and a live demo of digital modes.

Sign In sheet: 20 member hams and 2 non-members without callsigns signed in at this meeting.

Future Bay Area Events

- Current Bay Area Public Service Events: See www.ebarc.org, click on “Current Events”, then scroll to “Public Service.”
- EBARC, ORCA, and ARCA sponsor joint ARRL VEC Amateur Radio Test Sessions quarterly at 9 a.m. in the Media Room, 1605 Martin Luther King Jr. Way (at 16th St.), Oakland. The remaining test dates for 2018 are Apr. 22nd, Jul. 22nd, and Oct. 28th. The fee for 2018 is \$15. Info: 510-918-4627 or 510-741-8227.
- CoCoCo ACS Training: Details from mcmillan50y@yahoo.com, www.cocoacs.org, or via RACES net, 6:45 p.m., Thursdays on 145.11 MHz.

The East Bay Amateur Radio Club, founded in 1947, is a California non-profit organization of amateur radio operators in Contra Costa and Alameda counties. The club is open to anyone interested in amateur radio. Annual dues are \$30 for individual membership, \$35 for a family membership, and \$10 for students K-12. For information, send email to ebarcw6cus@gmail.com, contact any EBARC officer, see Web page www.ebarc.org, or write EBARC, P.O. Box 1393, El Cerrito, CA 94530. You can also follow us on Twitter using @w6cus.

2018 East Bay Amateur Radio Club Executive Committee

Jay Sparks, KJ6HSH, President.....	384-4233
Peter Hoffman, W6DEI, 1 st VP - Program Chair / Webmaster.....	684-6543
Ken Fowler, KO6NO, 2 nd VP - Hospitality.....	222-0830
Sharon Primbsch, AA6XZ, 3 rd VP - Membership / <i>Blown Fuse</i> Editor.....	741-8227
Robin Spalding, N6RLS, Secretary	528-1144
Randy Jenkins, KA6BQF, Treasurer / Finance Committee Chair.....	707-557-5521
Jim Fast, KK6NDG, Member-at-Large	237-7145
Member-at-Large	

2018 EBARC's Other Committee Heads and Contacts

Jack Burris, K6JEB, W6CUS Trustee.....	415-305-2547
Club Station Manager, Stanton Gleason, KD6SWU.....	385-4044
Field Day Chair, Ken Fowler, KO6NO	222-0830
Silent Key Chair	
Social & Digital Committees Chair	
RFI Committee Chair.....	
Historian	

AMATEUR RADIO NETS

NET	DAYS	LOCAL TIME	FREQ, MHZ
West Contra Costa EMCOMM Net	Thurs	1845 (PL 82.5-)	145.110
KARO/ECHO ARES/RACES(ACS) Net	Thurs	~1900 simplex	146.415
EBARC "Explore Net" (HF)	Mon	1930 (USB)	28.425
NALCO RACES/ARES Net	Thurs	1915 (PL 131.8+)	440.900
Oakland ARES Emergency Communications Net	Thurs	1930 (PL 77-)	146.880
Contra Costa Communications Club Net	Thurs	1930 (PL 82.5-)	145.110
Tech Net	Thurs	2000 (PL 82.5-)	145.110
"Over the Hill Gang" Breakfast/Commute Net	Mo-Fr	0710 (PL 82.5-)	145.110
Northern Calif. Net VHF Session (traffic)	Daily	1930 (PL 107.2-)	145.410
"QRM Net"	Tues	1930 (PL 82.5-)	224.300
9 a.m. Talk Net	Mo-Fr	0900 (PL 100.0-)	145.230
Youth Net	Sat	1400 (PL 100.0-)	145.230

RACES(ACS), West CoCoCo: Mike McMillan, K6MCM, mcmillan50y@yahoo.com, phone 510 223-3052. Frequencies: #1=145.110-, #2=147.570s. ACS details are at www.cocoacs.org

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- Double superheterodyne with image rejection mixer



IC-7200 | HF Transceiver

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IC-PW1 | HF/50 MHz Amplifier

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